

Oxfordshire Guardian

ABINGDON EDITION

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this week:**

Martha death: Teen gets
youth rehab order p5

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Thursday, March 13 - Wednesday, March 19, 2014

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Town's commercial reputation to get £33k boost

THAT'S OUR BUSINESS!

A SCHEME that has the potential to improve Abingdon's commercial prowess has moved another step towards becoming a reality.

Last week, the Department for Communities and Local Government granted a £33,000 loan to fund the creation of Abingdon's Business Improvement District (BID) bid.

The project will be overseen by the Choose Abingdon Partnership and the money has been earmarked

By Jack Johnson
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to support the town's businesses in deciding how they form themselves into a BID. It will be run by a team, composed of businesses within the town, with the Choose Abingdon Partnership acting as a guide.

A BID is financed by an extra levy on business rates and early plans for

Abingdon's project have already been put in place.

Heather Brown, Choose Abingdon Partnership manager, explained: "This is the money we will be using next year to bring the bid into being. It is the money we will use to create the bid, not for the bid. We are now able to go ahead, we have basically been given the green light."

Ms Brown said the money would go towards paying consultancy fees as

well as advertising and promoting the BID to local businesses.

Meanwhile, a feasibility study has already been carried out for the bid, which is hoped to be set up by April 2015.

She added: "We've had quite a few meetings with businesses through the Chamber of Commerce and Abingdon Business Alliance. All of those meetings have been really positive but now the challenge is we've got to get out

to other businesses who haven't been involved so far. We will be looking for good ideas, what they would like the bid to do and how they think the bid could change things for retail and business in Abingdon."

Town council leader Sandy Lovatt added: "It is good news for Abingdon because we can do some really long term plans now and start to position the town properly in the modern world."

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The Oxfordshire
Guardian Series is
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Newspapers Ltd.

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Cops: stay wary of frauds and scams

RECENT courier fraud incidents have forced Thames Valley Police to encourage members of the public to be extra vigilant in the face of scams.

The latest con involves victims handing over their bank card, because they have been told it has been compromised, to couriers.

Between February 27 and March 5, three people in their 80s were targeted with two of them losing money.

An 80-year-old had £8,000 stolen from his account while an 86-year-old had over £1,600 taken.

By Jack Johnson
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The third victim, another 80-year-old, was targeted last week but became suspicious and called the police.

Officers say victims receive a phone call from someone stating their bank card has been compromised.

They are asked to call back on the number on the back of the card but the offender does not hang up.

Unknowingly, the victim

speaks to the same person who takes their card details, including the pin.

Offenders then tell the victim to put the card in an envelope and hand it over to a courier who has come to pick it up.

Investigating Officer, Det Con Darren Little said: "If you receive a call like this make sure you call the police using a different phone line to the one you received the call on."

Det Con Little added that taxi firms "are being innocently used to collect and deliver the packages to a London destination".

He continued: "On two occa-

sions the taxi companies have become suspicious when collecting the package and contacted us, resulting in the packages being intercepted and not being delivered to the offender.

"If you have also been a victim and not reported it yet, or had someone attempt the same or similar scam on you, then also get in touch."

Police wish to remind people that banks will never ask for your pin or bank card and if you receive such a call you should end it immediately. You can report any incidents to 101 or, if the crime is in action, 999.

Omega-3 levels linked to getting better sleep

AN OXFORD University study suggests the more omega-3 DHA fatty acids we consume, the better we sleep.

Researchers have explored whether 16 weeks of daily supplements of algal sources would improve the sleep of 362 children, aged between seven and nine-years-old.

The study showed that the children had 58 minutes more sleep and seven fewer waking episodes per night.

Co-investigator Dr Alex Richardson of Oxford University said previous studies showed blood levels of omega-3 DHA in seven to nine-year-olds were "alarmingly low".

He added: "This could be directly related to the children's behaviour and learning.

"Poor sleep could well help to explain some of those associations.

"Further research is needed given the small number of children involved in the pilot study.

"However, this randomised controlled trial does suggest that children's sleep can be improved by DHA supplements.

"It indicates yet another benefit of higher levels of omega-3 in the diet."

Authorities fly the flag

OXFORDSHIRE County Council joined authorities, dignitaries, groups and charities across the country by honouring Commonwealth Day earlier this week.

Council chairman, Cllr Timothy Hallchurch MBE, raised the Commonwealth flag at the front entrance to County Hall on Monday morning.

The event is part of an initiative that encourages communities to associate themselves with the widespread public expression of commitment to the Commonwealth.

It is also designed to urge people to appreciate the values it stands for and the opportunities offered to its citizens around the world.

Cllr Hallchurch MBE said: "It is a great honour to raise the Commonwealth flag on behalf of Oxfordshire.

"Our county, with its vibrant and diverse communities, epitomises people coming together to celebrate our shared values."

The Commonwealth is made up of 53 sovereign states, working together in mutual support towards shared goals of democracy, development, and respect for diversity.

• (From left to right) Cllr Timothy Hallchurch, Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Oxfordshire County Council's Facilities manager Tim Stimpson and Cllr Rodney Rose raise the Commonwealth flag

Fire walk set to raise money for charity

MEMBERS of the public are being encouraged to hotfoot it over to Oxford City FC this weekend for a charity Fire Walk.

From 5.45pm on Saturday, willing volunteers will put mind over matter and walk barefoot over burning coals.

Money raised on the evening will go to Helen & Douglas House, SeeSaw, Aspire, Sobell House and Special Effect.

There will also be refreshments on the day, as well as entertainment and an inspirational talk before you walk across the coals.

Mary Boullin, head of Community and Events at Helen & Douglas House said: "I've managed to avoid taking part in our events before but this sounded like too good an opportunity to miss as there's no need for a long training schedule."

"I'm getting all fired up for it already and looking forward to raising lots of money for the children and young adults that we support at our fantastic charity."

If you would like to take part in the Fire Walk call Helen & Douglas House on 01865 799150.



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Vale - help us make the correct decisions

VALE of White Horse District Council (VWHDC) is urging people to help them "make the right decisions" after more housing figures were revealed at the end of last week.

In addition to the Vale's updated Local Plan, key findings of the 2014 Strategic Market Housing Assessment (SHMA) for Oxford-

By Jack Johnson
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shire have now been published.

The SHMA is a technical study, required by the National Planning Policy Framework, to help local planning authorities understand how many homes will be

needed during 2011 – 2031.

It reveals that, 20,560 homes, 1,028 a year, are needed in the Vale over the 20 year period.

The figure identifies the overall housing needed to support population change and economic growth as well as towards the need for affordable housing.

Cllr Mike Murray, cabinet

member for planning policy at VWHDC, said: "We need a new Local Plan in place as soon as we can.

"This housing market assessment has provided us with the up to date evidence we need to help us achieve that. However, it's enormously important that

the people of the Vale have their

say on the proposals we are making, based on the housing need evidence from the SHMA.

"We're urging people to read the housing delivery update document that we've published, and help us make the right decisions on our strategic housing sites."

The document can be found at www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk.



AN ABINGDON School is hosting an exhibition of 300 hand-stitched jigsaw pieces this month, helping to raise the profile of a Save the Children craft project.

Staff and pupils from Our Lady's Abingdon created almost 40 pieces for the project and will host the 'I'm a piece of the jigsaw' exhibition until March 21. The school's efforts became part of a nationwide 700-piece jigsaw project, launched by Save the Children.

Karen Rowe, head of Textiles at the school, and her friend Alex Messenger, were behind an exhibition of 300 of the pieces at Wolfson College, Oxford, earlier this year. Now, Our Lady's is hosting the exhibition. Mrs Rowe said: "There is always something new and important to think about, and it means we can explore issues in an informal way."

The exhibition is open to the public on weekdays, between 10.30am and 12.30pm, and between 2.00pm and 3.30pm.

• Nicola Blackwood MP views the school's contribution to the Jigsaw Project last May

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News Bites

Walk on by

WALK About Abingdon is set for its second year in operation and is offering people the chance to learn more about the town.

A 90-minute guided tour will take you to St Helen's Church, Abingdon's 15th century arched bridge and where William the Conqueror spent Easter and his son Henry I was educated.

To book a tour visit www.walkaboutabingdon.com.

Fundraiser

ONE of Abingdon's supermarkets has helped to raise money for a national charity.

Tesco Extra, on the Marham Road, along with stores in Oxford and Banbury, has helped to raise £22,000 for Diabetes UK.

Staff raised the money by holding various fundraising events.

Gates return

CULHAM Lock's gates have been returned to the site after maintenance.

The gates were cleaned, sand blasted, inspected, repaired and repainted.

After the gates had been taken out, divers went into the lock chamber to inspect all other elements.

A crane lowered the gates back into place last week.

Charity cycle event

AN Abingdon hotel will stage a 24-hour cyclethon tomorrow with the aim of raising over £2,000 for charity.

The Crown & Thistle, on Bridge Street, will donate the money to Springboard, which helps the advancement of life and education in young people under the age of 25.

Staff at the hotel have pledged to pedal for at least 40 minutes each on the static cycle, donated by Wallingford RFC.

During the Cyclethon, which coincides with weekend celebrations

"And what better way than to combine a little bit of exercise as a pipe-opener for a weekend of wining and dining with friends and family, to help raise over £2,000 for a very good cause."

The cyclethon starts at 9am tomorrow morning.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Josh Florey feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps."

Cloudy2Clear service Oxfordshire from their local depots and Josh is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal

satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much

a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Josh a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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Martha death: Teen gets youth rehab order

A TEENAGER from Botley has been sentenced after dealing the class A drugs that led to the death of a 15-year-old girl in Oxford.

Alex Williams, 17, who can be named after legal restrictions were lifted, has been given an

Have a say on social care

PEOPLE who use adult social care across Oxfordshire are being invited to have their say on its services at an event tomorrow.

A Hearsay event, facilitated by Healthwatch Oxfordshire, offers residents the opportunity to meet with representatives of the county council.

Service users, their families and their carers are welcome to share their views on service provision, improvements, and future priorities.

David Roulston, director of Healthwatch Oxfordshire, said: "We are working closely with the county council to gather views from local people about adult social care and hear about their experience of using these services.

"Hearsay is open to all and we look forward to hosting a productive event."

Tomorrow's meeting will be the fifth of its kind in Oxfordshire.

John Jackson, director of Social and Community Services at the county council, said: "We are committed to taking action to help improve adult social care in Oxfordshire.

"This next event is an opportunity for people to hear about developments and continue to shape local adult care services."

Spaces are limited and to book a place, call 01865 520520.

By Jack Johnson
[jackson@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

18-month youth rehabilitation order with a 90 day curfew.

He pleaded guilty to dealing class A drugs, namely a gram of MDMA, at Oxford Crown Court on Monday.

On July 17 last year, Williams sold the drugs to a group of four girls in Gloucester Green, Oxford.

Martha Fernback collapsed in Hinksey Park after taking some of the drugs on July 20.

She died a short while later at the John Radcliffe Hospital

and the subsequent investigation showed the cause of death to be MDMA toxicity or poisoning.

Further analysis of the remaining drugs seized showed purity levels of around 91 per cent.

The average purity of MDMA

seizures in the Thames Valley between May and September 2013, was 58.5 per cent.

Det Con Matthew Hodgetts said: "This is a tragic case, but it was not simply an accident.

"Those dealing MDMA must be

aware that it is potentially fatal, especially since the purity can be so hard to assess.

"Williams took that risk anyway, all for £20 profit.

"I can only hope that he and others like him think more about the consequences of their actions to avoid this terrible event from happening again."

A family statement, released last year, described Martha as an "extraordinary, effervescent human being."

News Bites

Scooter death

A 73-YEAR-OLD man has died after he was involved in a collision with a car while on his mobility scooter in Kidlington.

The collision occurred on Oxford Road on March 4 at 1.15pm and the man was taken to the John Radcliffe Hospital where he died last Sunday.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the collision to call 101.

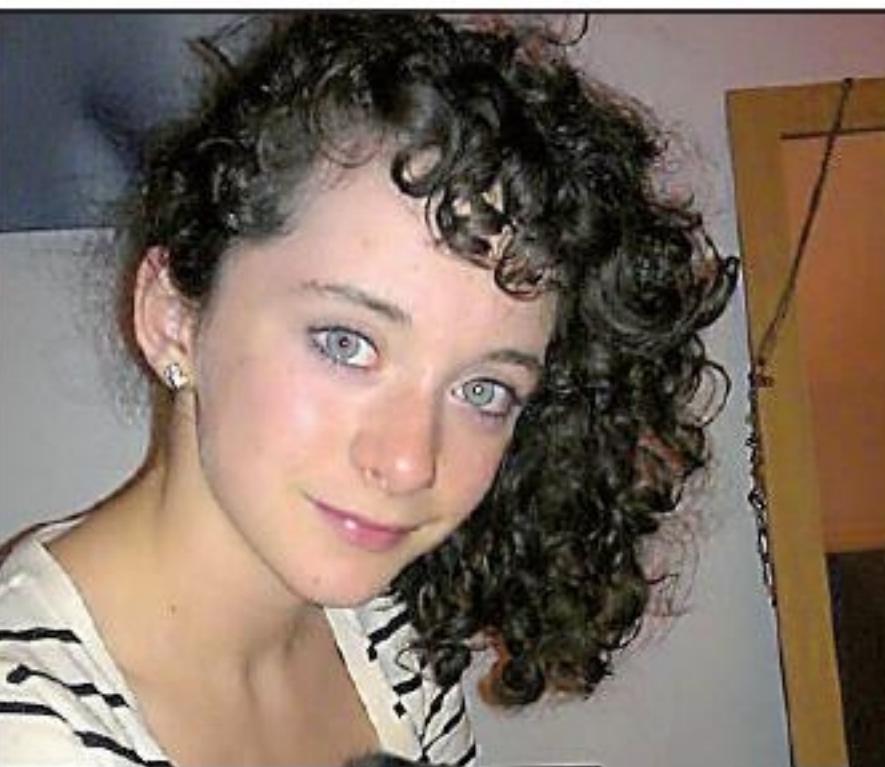
Science - wow!

THE Oxfordshire Science Festival continues this weekend and there is much to see and do for budding practitioners.

On Saturday, Oxford University's Museum of Natural History hosts 'Wow! How?' - a hands-on family science fair.

Meanwhile, the Phoenix Picture House will be showing Alfonso Cuarón's 'Gravity' this Sunday.

For more information, visit www.oxfordsciencefestival.com.



• Martha Fernback

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News Bites

Going faster

OXFORD City Council has launched a new Superfast Broadband Voucher Scheme.

After receiving £3.1million of government funding, the city council is offering small and medium sized businesses a voucher towards superfast broadband installation.

Vouchers will range between £250 and £3,000.

For more information visit www.connectionvouchers.co.uk/oxford.

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Bicester's best pals strut their stuff at Crufts

A BICESTER boy and his life-saving dog strutted their stuff at Crufts this weekend appearing in the main ring in front of hundreds of fans.

Steven Courtney, 11, and cocker spaniel Molls were nominated for the Friends for Life award at Crufts, which saw more than 21,500 happy, healthy dogs at the NEC in Birmingham for the world's biggest dog show, presented by the

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Kennel Club.

It came as a result of a remarkable bond between the pair, which sees Molls help Steven, a type 1 diabetes sufferer, stay safe by alerting him to changes in his blood sugar levels through her sense of smell.

Running since 2006, the Friends for Life award celebrates stories

of friendship through adversity between dog and owner, with Stephen and Molls going up against four other finalists on live television for a public vote.

And while falling just short in the overall title Stephen, who attends Five Acres Primary School, insisted it was a day to remember for both him and his beloved pet.

"We've been to Crufts for three years now, it's really busy and noisy but it was great to go into the main arena this time around," said Steven. "I really enjoyed seeing all the different types of breeds of dogs."

"I was really excited that Molly had been nominated for the final, I think she is totally amazing."

"She comes everywhere with me, and alerts me when my blood sugar levels go too high or too low by jumping up and licking and fetching my bloody glucose metre."

"She's always happy and cheerful, everyone in my family loves Molls and they all think she is amazing like I do. She's a winner for me."



• Steve Courtney with Molls

News Bites

Rededication

THE churchyard where the body of teenager Jayden Parkinson was found will be rededicated on Sunday.

The Bishop of Dorchester, Rt Revd Colin Fletcher OBE, will lead the ceremony at All Saints Church in Didcot.

Service will start at 4pm.

Shops 'to be dementia friendly'

OXFORD'S high streets are set to become more dementia friendly following a commitment from businesses to back a new Alzheimer's Society initiative.

Staff at Homebase, Argos, Marks and Spencer and Lloyds Banking Group will become 'Dementia Friends'.

They will learn about how they can make a difference to people living with the condition in the local community.

The initiative follows a recent

Alzheimer's Society study which reveals that one in four people with dementia have given up shopping since being diagnosed.

Alzheimer's Society is now calling on other Oxford businesses to be more 'dementia friendly' by offering sessions to their staff, or by joining their local Dementia Action Alliance.

Angie Newing, Alzheimer's Society's regional director for the South, said: "Many people with dementia tell us that shopping and

visiting their local high street can be very stressful.

"But this announcement brings us a step closer to becoming a dementia friendly society."

"We applaud Argos, Homebase, Marks and Spencer and Lloyds Banking Group on their commitment to help their staff in Oxfordshire understand more about dementia."

"Dementia Friends will enable people to feel more independent when they go out."

Oxford tower block plans shown

ENHANCED plans for improving the city's tower blocks will be on show next week as designs move closer to being finalised.

Evenlode, Foresters, Hockmore, Plowman and Windrush Towers are set to be improved as part of an Oxford City Council programme.

Plans include external appearance, colour preference for cladding and landscaping.

Tenants, leaseholders and the

local community will have the opportunity to choose their preferred options by completing a survey.

Clr Scott Seamons, board member for Housing said: "The extensive works we have planned for the tower blocks take time to design so we make sure we get it right."

"At the previous set of consultations residents were incredibly positive and their thoughts

have been incorporated into our thinking. I encourage residents of the blocks and those from their wider communities to come, take a look, and share their thoughts as we finalise designs ahead of next year's works."

Consultations will take place at Plowman (March 17), Foresters (March 18), Hockmore (March 19), Evenlode and Windrush Towers (both March 20).

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Gammon steak & eggs or pineapple £10.50

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Lamb shank with mashed potato & vegetables £11.50

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Joker Adam 'touched the hearts of us all'

THE cortège of a soldier killed in Afghanistan last week will pass through RAF Brize Norton this afternoon.

Sapper Adam Moralee, 23, died last Wednesday (March 6) after being injured while preparing equipment for redeployment out of the country.

The Newcastle-born soldier, from 32 Engineer Regiment, leaves behind parents Lynn and Darren, and fiancee Emma.

A statement from his family said he was 'always the joker' who 'touched the hearts of all of us'.

"Adam was a loving son, fiancé and friend who touched everyone's hearts that came into contact with him," they said.

"As a son he was full of life and

By James Booker
jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

always the joker of the family, who never took anything too seriously.

"He loved his job and the friends he made from his time in the army, and he would never have swapped those experiences for the world.

"He treated his fiancée, Emma, like his princess and the love they shared was clear to all of those who were lucky enough to see it.

"To be his wife would have made Emma feel like the luckiest girl in the world and they were each other's one true love and soul mates.

* Sapper Adam Moralee
(Picture courtesy of the Ministry of Defence)



Mayor's Column

Axel MacDonald

Mayor of Didcot



Civic Ball - A big thank you

MARCH seems to have brought drier weather and spring appears to be with us. The Civic Ball was well attended and raised around £1,800 for my chosen charities - a humble thank you to all who attended and contributed to such a full and great evening! The Civic Ball comes towards the end of my term as mayor but we still have the Annual Town Awards evening and Town meeting to come. The Annual Awards evening is on March 26 at the Civic Hall and I hope you the reader will be able to make this. The Annual Town meeting will be on May 7 and is a chance for the town's residents to meet with the Council and ask questions. It should be borne in mind that the Town Council is responsible for allotments, parks and cemetery in the town plus some leisure facilities. The matters that most are concerned with, for instance the poor road surfaces in town and speeding down Wantage/ Abingdon/ Park roads are

dealt with by other authorities. However the Town Council is aware of various issues and will pursue these at District and County levels although it seems a very slow process!

The Annual Volunteers Fair was held at the Civic Hall on March 8, organized by the Rotary club but I noted a downturn in visitors and stalls. Those who were there were very enthusiastic and this made up for the reduction in stalls. Lastly there has been some discussion and consultation to purchase land for the town, partly to provide permanent homes for our enterprising sports clubs. Part of the process to continue with the purchase (still being discussed by council) includes public meetings - please look out for these and attend so the council can hear your opinions. As it stands we don't have sufficient leisure space for the current residents of Didcot, as the town continues to grow it is important that land for leisure facilities keeps apace.

His commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Steve Dav-

ies, added: "Quietly determined and utterly dedicated, Sapper him and not a day will go by Adam Moralee was an outstanding soldier."

Norton Way will be closed from approximately 4.00pm, reaching the John Radcliffe Hospital approximately 4.45pm. Delays are to be expected as the cortège travels to the John Radcliffe Hospital, with closures in place at the Marston Road and Cherwell Drive junction and the Marston Ferry Road and Cherwell Drive junction.

Man bitten

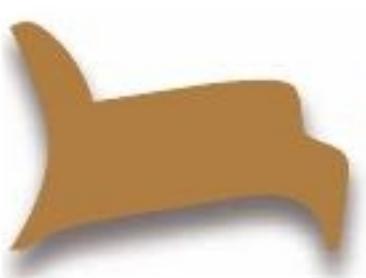
A 20-year-old man was attacked and bitten on the nose by three men in Cowley last Sunday evening.

The victim was approached in Barracks Lane at 5.55pm and was assaulted by two men.

A third man then bit him on the nose.

He managed to escape but required treatment at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The first offender was white, in his 50s, and wearing pyjamas, while the second offender was white and had a skin head haircut. The third offender was black, in his 20s, with black hair. If you have any information call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



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Care facilities get green light from Cherwell

PLANS to provide nursing and care facilities across two specialist buildings in Adderbury have been given the thumbs-up by councillors.

Last Thursday, Cherwell District Council's planning committee granted permission for land to be developed north of Greenhills and Adderbury Bowls Club off Oxford Road.

Councillors gave the green light for the construction of an elderly nursing home and outlined consent for the creation of an extra care facility.

Cllr Michael Gibbard, lead member for planning, said: "This application sought permission to develop the site in two stages.

"The first will involve the construction of the nursing home and once this is up and running, the extra care facility would be built.

"A recent report by Oxfordshire

By James Booker

jamesb@taylornewspapers.co.uk

County Council revealed demand for extra care housing exceeded supply in the north of the district so hopefully this development will go a long way towards meeting that shortfall.

"Furthermore, the creation of 80 new jobs fulfils requirements set by the National Planning Policy Framework to create more employment in rural locations."

The 60-bed nursing home would create 65 new jobs, and be built by Leonard Cheshire Disability and Gracewell Properties across three floors.

Residents' accommodation would consist of en suite bedrooms with shared lounge, dining, bathing and activity facilities.

Twenty-six car parking spaces would be included, as would spaces for a doctor, mini bus and ambulance.

Once the nursing home is operational, the extra care facility would be built across an area of 3,450 sqm.

The extra care facility development is designed to provide accommodation for those elderly people who wish to remain independent but who may need some care or support.

While the number of bedrooms is still to be confirmed, the self-contained accommodation units are expected to consist of two bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom and living area.

Upon the care facility opening, a further 15 jobs would be created offering support to the extra care facility residents.

Teen gets two years' detention after admitting drug charges

A 19-YEAR-OLD man has been sentenced to two years' detention after being convicted of supplying class A drugs in Bicester.

Omari Watson, of Blenheim Gardens, Wembley, London, was sentenced at Oxford Crown Court last week.

Watson was convicted at Banbury Magistrates' Court in February.

He pleaded guilty to counts of possession with intent to supply heroin and crack cocaine.

Police searched Watson in a flat in

Wesholm Court, Bicester, on February 3 where they found 20 wraps each of heroin and crack cocaine concealed in his underwear.

Sgt Stephen Willis said: "This young man travelled from London to Bicester with the intention of selling these class A drugs in the local community. His arrest and subsequent imprisonment demonstrates that this type of behaviour will not be tolerated and the police will continue to work with our communities and take action against those who deal drugs."



News Bites

Woman on theft charge

A 46-YEAR-OLD woman from Didcot has been charged with the theft of a purse from a property in Harwell.

On February 28, a purse containing a quantity of cash was stolen from a property on Reading Road.

She has been charged with one count of theft dwelling and has been bailed to appear at Oxford Magistrates' Court on March 18.

Craft and food fair coming

BLEWBURY'S Spring craft and food fair is taking place on March 29.

The fair is all about treating Mums and stocking up on Easter goodies with cheeses, confectionery, baked goods, wines and liqueurs available from local stalls.

Taking place at Blewbury Village Hall, the fair is open from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

Admission is £1.50 with all profits going to Blewbury Pre-School Playgroup.

Get sporty!

YOUNGSTERS will have the chance to try their hand at a host of sports during the Easter holidays.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are running activities, including tennis, athletics and horse riding, between April 7-17.

For more information call 01235 540405.

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Oxon's museums get £300k funding boost

FOUR county-based museums have been awarded grants totalling over £300,000 as part of the Arts Council's funding scheme.

The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, River and Rowing Museum Foundation, and Banbury Museum will all benefit from a proportion of the £327,274 of funding.

The Renaissance strategic support fund and Designation development fund are part of Arts Council England's total investment programme for regional museums in England.

Hedley Swain, area director for the South East at Arts Council England, said: "Across both funds we have seen some really innovative projects.

"They will strengthen the resilience of the successful museums and improve audience engagement, creating greater accessibility to the wonderful collections each holds. We are particularly delighted to see so many museums making the most of digital technology and harnessing it to create more accessible experiences for all museum users."

The Ashmolean Museum of

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Art and Archaeology and Oxford University Museum of Natural History were successful in securing money from the Designation development fund.

Well known for being the oldest museum in the UK, the Ashmolean's project involves reconfiguring the existing gallery space to display Michael Wellby's bequest of silver, goldsmith's work, and Kunstkammer objects.

Meanwhile, the Museum of Natural History will transfer its collections documentation database into one single central management system.

The River and Rowing Museum Foundation and Banbury Museum were among 57 organisations to receive money through the Strategic support fund. In partnership with Langley Academy, the River and Rowing Museum in Henley will have a series of teacher and museum champions.

Banbury Museum will use the money to build its fundraising activities, capacity and resources.



Hindu colour festival celebration

AN OXFORD hotel is holding its inaugural Holi Festival of Colours event this Saturday to celebrate the arrival of Spring.

Holi is an ancient Hindu festival which celebrates love and colours and the Tree Hotel in Iffley sees it as a great way to wave goodbye to winter.

"This is going to be a fantas-

tic way to bid farewell to the miserable winter, and to celebrate the arrival of spring," said managing director Kavita Pal.

"Hindus regard it as a symbolic way to start afresh with the new season, and lay bad relationships to rest.

"It will be colourfully spectacular."

Anyone wanting to attend should dress in white, with the idea of creating the effect of leaving the hotel as a rainbow.

The throwing of natural powders will result in a bright, visual celebration for all guests who will also enjoy a banquet of Indian street food.

Residents in praise for Summertown nursing home

A SUMMERTOWN nursing home has been awarded top marks for care by its own residents.

One hundred per cent of residents rated the overall service at Bupa's Green Gates Nursing Home, on Hernes Crescent, as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

The results are from an annual independent survey which provides those living in care homes to comment on the quality of the services provided.

Margo Wilcock, home manager at Bupa's Green Gates Nursing Home, said she was delighted with the feedback.

"Our residents are the best judges of the care we provide and I'm delighted to see such a positive response from them," she said.

"Ensuring our residents' wellbeing is our absolute priority so knowing we're making so many residents happy with the individual care we provide is extremely rewarding.

"This result is a tribute to our hard-working and committed people and the excellent care they provide."

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Cops - Bicester vehicle thefts may be linked

POLICE believe a spate of thefts from vehicles in and around Bicester may be linked.

There have been seven offences between March 2-5 in the Launton and Upper Arncott area.

Tools are among the most common items stolen while police are reminding the public to take all personal items with them when leaving their car.

PC Chris Kidd, said: "We believe that these offences may be linked but we are actively pursuing all lines of enquiries."

"I would like to remind residents the importance of removing tools from vehicles overnight and not displaying any valuable items."

"Please ensure that all doors and windows are securely locked."

"Also consider security marking your tools, as this helps us to identify them if stolen and reunite them with their rightful owners."

"We are actively patrolling the area to prevent further offences."

A mobile phone and keys were stolen from a vehicle on West End, Launton, between 10.30am on March 2 and 1pm on March 3.

By Jack Johnson
[jackson@taylornewspapers.co.uk](mailto:jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk)

Two chain saws, tools and a leaf blower were also stolen from a vehicle on Bicester Road, Launton, between 11pm on March 2 and 5am on March 3.

Between 2pm and 6.20am, across the same days, tools were stolen from a car on Ancil Avenue, Launton.

Tools were also taken from a vehicle on Sycamore Road, Launton, between 9pm on March 2 and 7am on March 3.

Meanwhile, three offences took place in Upper Arncott between March 4-5.

Two vehicles were forced open on Woodpiece Road while the rear door of a car was broken into on Murcott Road.

If you have any information call 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Charity dinner raises £3,000

THAME'S town mayor's charity dinner raised over £3,000 as Cllr Peter Lambert's term of office nears an end.

Just under 150 guests attended the fundraising dinner at The Oxfordshire, with proceeds going to SAFARI and Thame Players.

Attendees enjoyed a three course meal while harpist, Sarah Goss, provided musical accompaniment and magician, Sylar, worked his magic.

Cllr Lambert, who completes his term of office in May, spoke of how he has "thoroughly enjoyed" his time as mayor.

He also thanked those who persuaded him to stay in Thame and for all the words of encouragement he has received.



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Council's workers do give a hoot!

WHEN two council workers were carrying out a simple litter pick along the A40 the last thing they expected was to find an injured owl.

The two men, from Cherwell District Council's environmental services team, were working near the A34 flyover when they discovered the distressed barn owl on a flooded roadside verge.

The pair made attempts to capture the bird but when it fled into a nearby ditch the officers contacted the RSPCA who rescued the owl with a net.

Cherwell's street cleaning supervisor Paul Devine said: "Our officers are used to finding unusual items on litter picks but an injured owl was a first."

"The bird had suffered an obvious injury to its wing which meant it was unable to fly or do anything more than hobble."

"Had they left it, there is a good chance it would have wandered into the traffic which could have had serious consequence for both the bird and any motorists swerving to avoid it at speed."

The bird was taken to a RSPCA medical centre where it received treatment for a fractured wing.

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Festivals to boast best in business

WITH spring just around the corner, festival season is fast approaching and some of the biggest names in music are flocking to the county this summer.

Set on Alex James' idyllic Cotswolds farm near Kingham, The

By Jack Johnson
jack@taylornewspapers.co.uk

Big Feastival (August 29-31) is no different with music, food and fun for the family.

"It's going to be one hell of a

party!" says Blur bassist Alex, who hosts the feastival alongside TV chef Jamie Oliver.

British DJ Fatboy Slim, jazz singer-songwriter Jamie Cullum and American pop star Kelis headline this year's event.

Of course, The Big Feastival is just one of many events this summer.

The Cornbury Music Festival (July 4-6), based at the Great Tew Estate, near Chipping Norton, celebrated its 10th anniversary last year and hosts a line-up full of famous names.

Jools Holland, with special guests, including ex Spice Girl Melanie C and Soft Cell's Marc Almond, is joined by soft rock outfit The Feeling, songstress Sophie Ellis Bextor, indie-poppers Scouting for Girls and last year's X Factor winner Sam Bailey.

"Once again I think we've managed to get a brilliant cross-section of great music," said Cornbury music festival director, Hugh Phillimore.

"With Cornbury's unique family atmosphere, it's going to be a lot of fun."

Over at the Henley Festival (July 9-13), The Jacksons, Joss Stone and Burt Bacharach

headline.

Siblings Jackie, Jermaine, Marlon, and Tito can't wait to bring their magic to Henley.

"We are thrilled and honoured to be performing at the historic Henley Festival," they said.

"We look forward to putting on a great and memorable show for all of the attendees."

And at Hill Farm, Steventon, Truck (July 18-19) is back for another year with White Lies, The Cribs, Stornoway and Kids In Glass Houses among the performers.

The Waterboys lead the line-up at Fairport's Cropredy Convention (August 7-9), which heralds itself as 'Britain's friendliest music festival'.

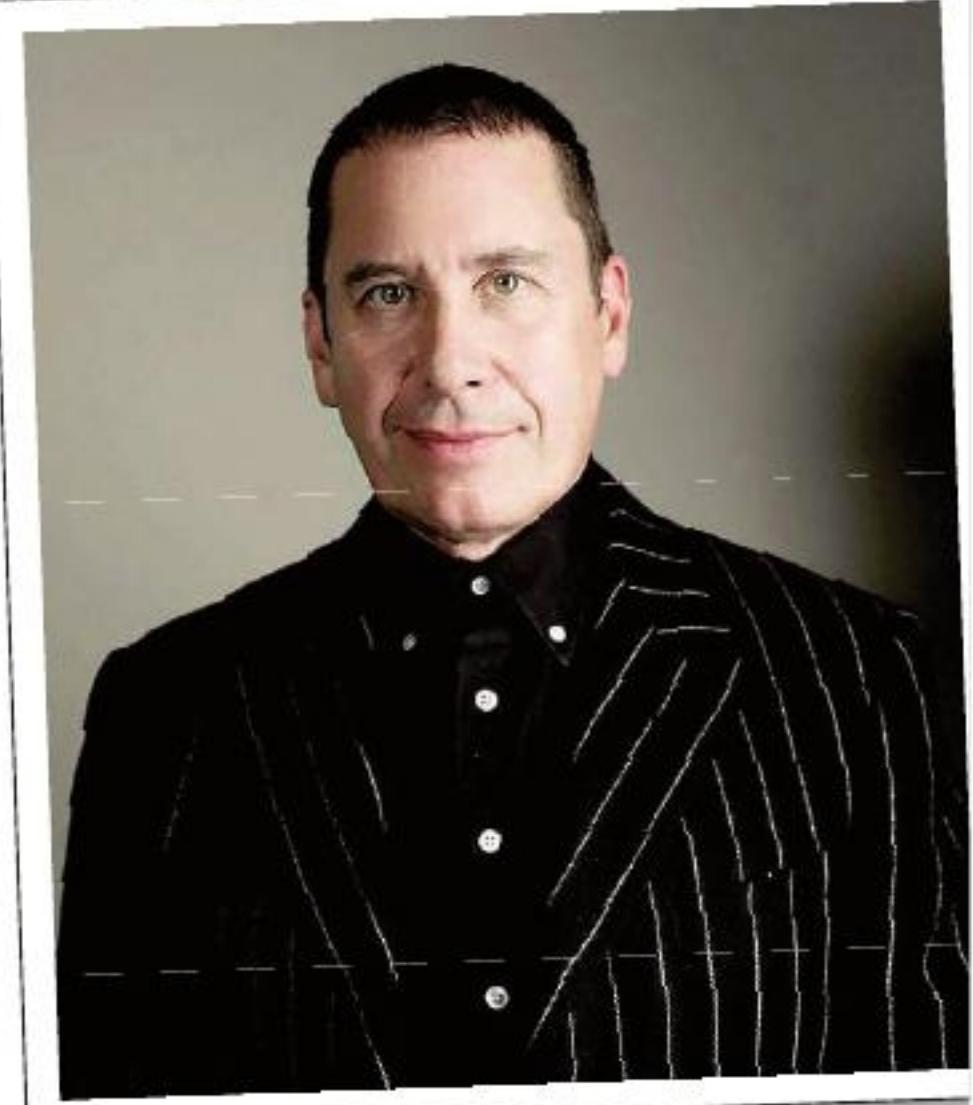
Steve Hackett from Genesis and The Australian Pink Floyd Show also lead the bill.

Burt Bacharach also headlines at Wilderness (August 7-10) and is joined by Submotion Orchestra who will bring their combination of dubstep, soul and jazz to the Cornbury Park estate.

Meanwhile, the dates have been announced for the Charlbury Riverside Festival (July 26-27) and Wallingford's Bunk-Fest (August 29-31).



• Joss Stone



- Joss Stone and (above) the Jacksons



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• Tunnels is a production designed for teens with learning difficulties



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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | NEWS

Very talented

TALENTED groups and individuals in North Oxfordshire will be in action on Sunday night, with the arrival of Banbury's Got Talent at the Mill Arts Centre.

Acts from across the region will be demonstrating their skills in music, comedy, acting and alike in Sunday's finals, where the winner will be crowned.

It's Faustus

FOLK trio Faustus have embarked on their spring tour, and will perform at Abingdon's Unicorn Theatre on Tuesday.

Their appearance is part of Folk at the Unicorn, which sees a number of artists and bands visit the theatre in a regular series of concerts.

Doors open at 7.30pm.

Henley Players

THE Henley Players present Quartet, a comedic play set in a retirement home for gifted musicians, which comes to the Kenton Theatre from Wednesday.

Preparations for the annual concert are underway to celebrate Verdi's birthday, but is disrupted by the arrival of eternal diva Jean, when former rivalries resurface.

Times and ticket prices can be found at www.kentontheatre.co.uk.

Tunnels looks to help teens with learning difficulties

A MULTI-SENSORY theatre production for teenagers with profound learning disabilities comes to Didcot's Cornerstone theatre this evening.

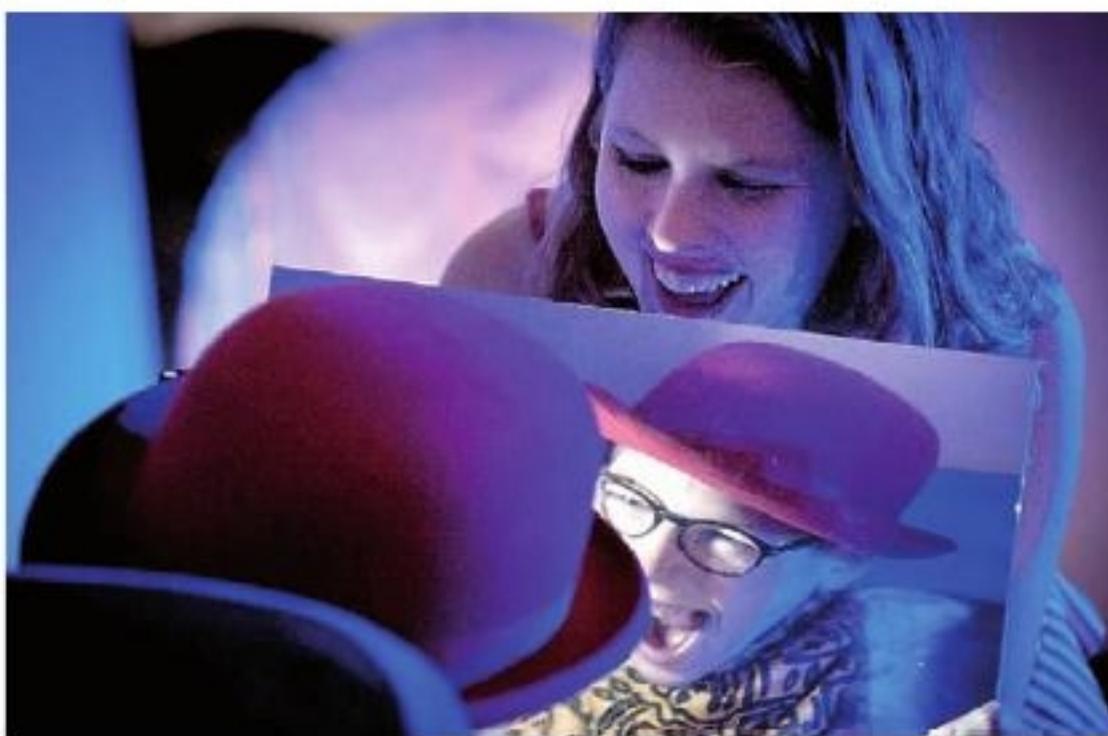
Tunnels has been created by theatre company Frozen Light specifically for audiences with multiple learning disabilities, and it takes the audience on an interactive and multi-sensory journey.

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



The story follows Lana as she searches for the light that has disappeared from her city, and is enticed into the tunnels by the mysterious Cardini.



Each tunnel appears different from its smell, texture and light, as Lana tries to find her way back up to the city.

It has been co-created by Frozen Light directors Amber Onat Gregory and Lucy Garland, and have utilised the talents of Al Watts to create the original score.

Lucy said: "In the last year we have received so much support, enabling us to create a high quality theatre production for an audience who do not usually have access to the theatre.

Amber added: "This national tour is giving families the opportunity to come to the theatre together for a show that the whole family can enjoy. Not only that, it is also appropriate for a teenager with profound and multiple learning disabilities. Tunnels is an exciting adventure where Lana searches for the light that has mysteriously disappeared from her city."

"Leaving the place that she calls home, Lana travels deep below the city into an underground world filled with music, smells and curious characters."

Cornerstone director Emma Dol-

man said: "We're very excited to be working with Frozen Light, and at Cornerstone we are passionate about providing accessible theatre for everyone in our local community.

"We are keen to develop our programme of accessible activities for all, be they performances, participation or social opportunities."

For show times and ticket costs, contact the Cornerstone box office on 01235 515144.

• *Tunnels is staged at Didcot's Cornerstone theatre today*

Audiograft

EXPERIMENTAL music and sound art festival Audiograft comes to the Old Fire Station, curated by the Sonic Art Research Unit at Oxford Brookes University.

Tomorrow sees a focus on Electroacoustic compositions, while Saturday sees solo performances by sound artists Dawn Scarfe and Rie Nakajima.

For further details, go to www.oldfirestation.org.uk.

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Mother's Day

March 30th

Give Mum a morning to savour

IT MAY be the one time of year when mothers get to be waited on by their offspring, so why not start Mothering Sunday as you mean to go on with a lovingly prepared brunch or breakfast in bed?

With Dad taking charge in the kitchen, there are plenty of easy chores the little ones can tackle while Mum gets a well-deserved lie-in. And learning how to cook could have a positive impact on fussy young eaters as well.

Children's cookery expert Annabel Karmel says: "Tasks such as cracking eggs and stirring are well within the capabilities of a young child and it is amazing how being involved in the planning and preparation of a meal can stimulate a child's appetite."

When it comes to cooking with your kids, Karmel recommends picking recipes that lead to quick results as children have short attention spans.

"To start with, choose recipes that are simple enough for your child to make without too much help from you, then you can build up a repertoire of recipes they feel confident doing by themselves," she says.

Karmel's safety tips for cooking with kids

- Always make sure children wash their hands before doing any cooking.
- Never use wet hands to turn on a switch or pull out a plug.
- If they need to stand on a chair to reach the work surface, make sure it's very stable.
- Explain about heat and the dangers of steam, hot pans and hobs.

Now try one of these yummy brunch recipes to make mum smile...

By Diana Pilkington

Devilled mushrooms

(Serves 1)

25g butter
150g chestnut mushrooms, thinly sliced
2-3 drops Worcestershire sauce
~0.5tsp Dijon mustard
3tbsp creme fraiche (low fat is fine)
1 muffin, split and toasted
1tsp fresh chopped parsley (optional)

Melt half the butter in a medium frying pan. Add the mushrooms and sauté



over a high heat for 6-8 minutes until the mushrooms are golden. Stir in the Worcestershire sauce and mustard. Remove from the heat and stir in the creme fraiche.

Sit the muffin on a plate, spread with the remaining butter toasted side up, and spoon over the mushrooms. You can sprinkle with a little chopped parsley if you like.

cake for 2 minutes until brown underneath and just set on top (with small bubbles).

Flip over and cook for a further 1-2 minutes until golden and cooked through.

Lay one pancake slightly over the other - decide which will be the head and which will make the body and decorate with your fruit.

For more family recipes download Annabel Karmel's Essential Guide to Feeding your Baby and Toddler available on iTunes and Google Play for £3.99

Annabel Karmel's Devilled Mushrooms (left) and Breakfast Bear Pancakes (below). PA Photo/Annabel Karmel

Breakfast bear pancakes

(Serves 1)

125g self-raising flour
1 egg
125ml milk
4tbsp creme fraiche
1tsp vanilla extract
3tbsp maple syrup
20g butter
2tbsp vegetable oil
Fresh fruit, to serve (optional)

Chop up your fruit - thinking about what might work for your pancake bear's ears (banana), eyes (blueberries), arms (strawberries) and feet (kiwi) - be as creative as you like!

Put the flour in a large bowl. Whisk together the egg, milk, creme fraiche, vanilla, maple syrup and a pinch of salt. Add this mixture to the flour and whisk to make a batter (there may be a few small lumps, but don't worry).

Melt the butter in a large non-stick frying pan and tip it into a small bowl.

Mix 1 tablespoon of the melted butter into the batter. Use the rest to grease the pan. Drop 2 tablespoons of batter into the frying pan and cook the pan-



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Maximo Park

ALTERNATIVE rock band Maximo Park hit Oxford's O2 Academy next Tuesday as part of their UK tour.

The Mercury Prize-nominated five-piece recently released new album 'Too Much Information'.

Fans will be treated to latest single 'Leave This Island' as well as early hit 'Apply Some Pressure'.

Theatre classic

PULITZER Prize winning 'A Streetcar Named Desire' comes to Oxford Playhouse next week.

It tells the story of Blanche DuBois who flees her Louisiana home to find herself in the brutal world of downtown New Orleans.

After moving in with her sister Stella, Blanche shares a lyrical and poetic story of misfortune, hardship and bad luck. Tickets cost £17 across March 18 to March 22.

Get dancing

CECILIA Macfarlane presents a showcase of community dance at the Pegasus Theatre this weekend.

Starting tomorrow and ending on Saturday, all performances will be inspired by the theme of time.

There will also be a guest performance from Oxford Youth Dance Company. Tickets cost £7 and for more information call 01865 812150.

Set the controls for a Pink Floyd tribute night

By Adam Flinn

adam@taylornewspapers.co.uk



OXFORD'S New Theatre is host to the Australian Pink Floyd Show on Sunday, for two-and-a-half hours of live music featuring songs from the renowned group.

This year's 'Set the Controls' tour comes more than 20 years since the tribute act started out, and will see performances from the iconic albums 'The Dark Side of the Moon', 'Wish You were Here' and 'The Division Bell'.



audience to be able to log in and choose their favourite two songs from each of the albums.

"It's because for years we've had people requesting songs and trying to get in touch with us so we thought we'll make more of an easy way for the audience to feel involved."

"We'll be doing the most popular songs from those albums on the night, and it's actually worked really well so far. And apart from that, it's also the best Pink Floyd music with all the bells and whistles you'd expect with a Pink Floyd concert."

Aussie Floyd have sold over three million concert tickets in their own right, and remain popular with Pink Floyd fans and their own audiences alike.

"Pink Floyd's music has got so many depths to it," Colin added. "There are lots of different moods and atmospheres they were able to create."

"They very rarely did two-and-a-half minute pop songs, so a lot of the songs are quite long and involved and had different movements."

"It's great fun and very challenging

to play, and you can really get absorbed in the music."

Tickets start from £32.40, and the show begins at 7pm. For more details, go to www.newtheatreoxford.org.uk or call 0844 871 3020.

** Colin Wilson and the Australian Pink Floyd Show come to Oxford on Sunday*

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THE North Wall Arts Centre plummets into the depths of the ocean this evening as it hosts 'The Adventures of Alvin Sputnik: Deep Sea Explorer'.

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EXPLORER

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JOHN BRAMWELL SOLO TOUR

John Bramwell, singer-songwriter and frontman of Manchester's Iam Kloot, has announced details of a

brand new solo tour kicking off in January 2014.

Iam Kloot have been performing since 1999, and in that time have garnered major critical acclaim; retained their credible, cult status; and developed a legion of devout fans 'dedicated to spreading the gospel of Iam Kloot'.

It's been an incredible couple of years for John with the band, with highlights including picking up a Mercury Music Nomination for Sky at Night and a number 10 entry into the UK Album Charts for this year's studio album, Let It All In.

Now John is taking a break to perform an exclusive set of intimate solo gigs at some of the country's best loved venues. Having been all over the world with the band these

last couple of years, playing some of the most prestigious venues around, this is a chance for John to go back to his roots and entertain smaller audiences.

The tour is the only place where fans can buy John's solo record 'John Bramwell Live At The Trades' - a one hour recording of John's legendary gig at the Trades Club in summer 2013.

This promises to be a very special show for fans old and new.

johnbramwell.com

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18 March - 22 March

A Streetcar Named Desire TENNESSEE WILLIAMS' ICONIC, PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING PLAY IS BROUGHT TO THE PLAYHOUSE STAGE BY OXFORD THEATRE GUILD.

www.oxfordplayhouse.com

19 March - 20 March

Burton Taylor Studio THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL

Set in the Malayan jungle in 1942, a British patrol finds itself holed up in an abandoned miner's hut. Into this volatile mix is suddenly thrust a



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What's on in OXFORDSHIRE | COMPS

WIN Need For Speed movie goodies!

FRESH from prison, framed for a crime he didn't commit, street racer Tobey Marshall (Breaking Bad's Aaron Paul), is hell bent on settling the score.

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Based on the most successful racing game franchise of all time, bursting with explosive action and exhilarating stunts, NEED FOR SPEED accelerated into cinemas on MARCH 12, 2014.

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Friday, March 28, 2014

Tyre Clock.

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Q: What award winning TV show starring Aaron Paul has recently finished after 5 series?



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Sudoku

Place a number from 1 to 9 in each empty cell so that each 3x3 block, column, and full row includes each of the numbers from 1 to 9 only once. **EASY/MEDIUM/HARD**

4			7	2		6	1	
	7	3		4			2	
	5	8	1			3		
6	8		3	5				7
9	5				2		6	
3		2	6					8
	4			2	5	8		
1		5		9	4			
2	6		8	3				

7	4		5		1	9		
6		2		1		7		
3	5						1	2
8	6				3		9	
7	4					5	6	
1		9		6		3		
8	5		4		2	6	2	

	8				9	4		
3		7				1		
1	5	8			6			
7		3						
1							2	
				2		5		
	9			3	5	7		
3				9			8	
4	6				9			

Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

- 1 One who does not believe in God (7)
- 2 Digits (6)
- 3 Give a right to (7)
- 4 Alter (5)
- 5 Chase (4)
- 6 Illumination (8)
- 7 Sports events (8,5)
- 8 Type of material (4)
- 9 Labels (4)
- 10 Anniversary (6,7)
- 11 Sign (8)
- 12 Always (4)
- 13 Meeting (5)
- 14 Young swans (7)
- 15 To a very great degree (9)
- 16 Cut into pieces (7)
- 17 Misrepresent (7)
- 18 Small fish (7)
- 19 Purpose (6)
- 20 Strive (5)

Quick Clues Down

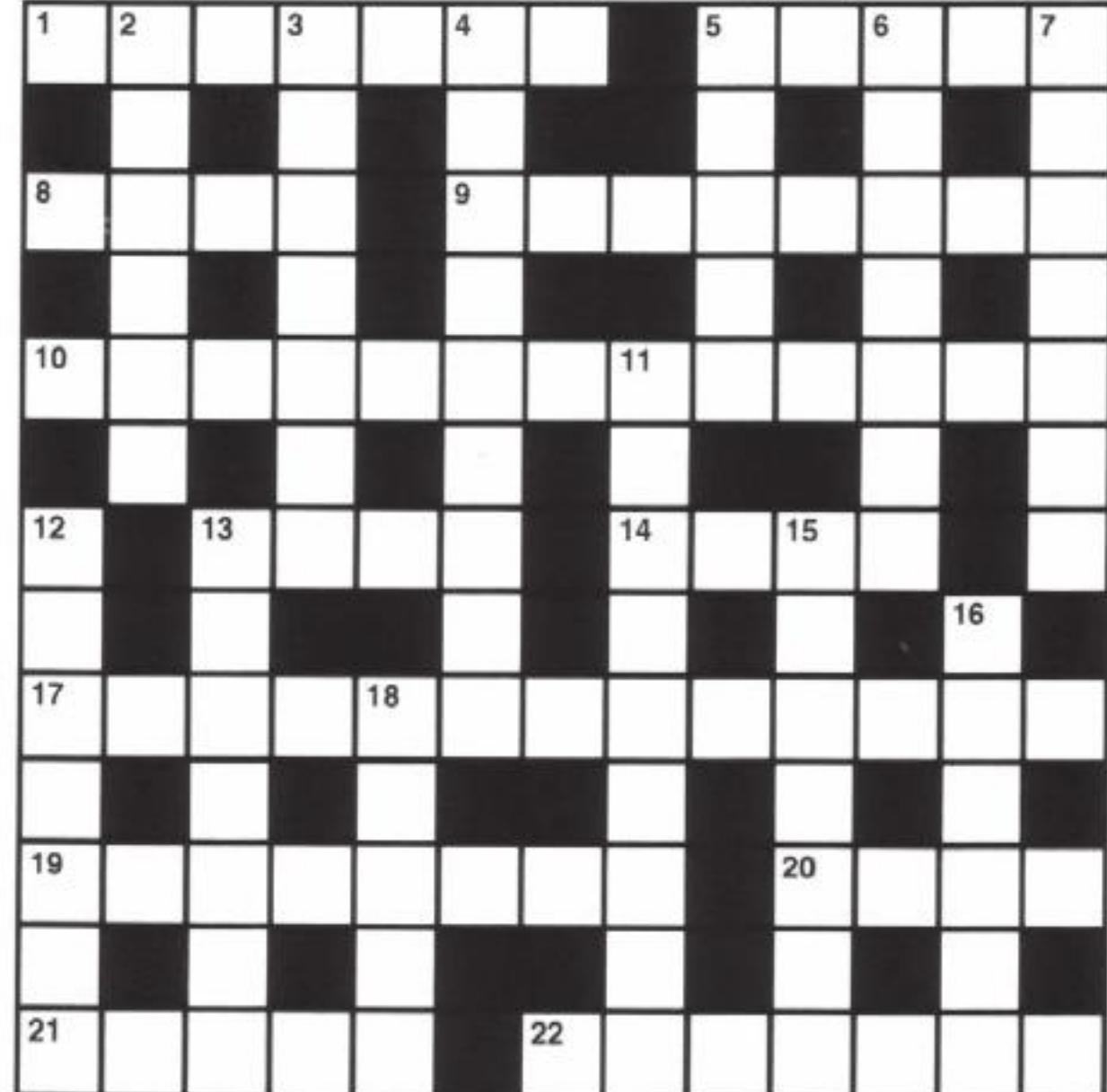
- 1 Alter (5)
- 2 Lawyer (9)
- 3 Clear upper air (5)
- 4 Shows (7)
- 5 Summaries (7)
- 6 To a very great degree (9)
- 7 Roamed, or remained about the head of the river (7)
- 8 Indignation about the individual's instincts (9)
- 9 Slow down and break out (5)
- 10 Those with no choice (7)
- 11 Allow the rest to go round for the mail (7)
- 12 Exhorted nothing about departing from established doctrine (9)
- 13 The Caribbean islands take centigrade as their pointers (7)
- 14 In the morning I moan about the gas (7)
- 15 Have a shot at the tiger's head with time to make a stew (7)
- 16 Or in the overturned earth it will be hot (6)
- 17 Pleasant to have an Eastern relative (5)

Cryptic Clues Across

- 1 Associate with a queen (7)
- 2 Tower for a child with a following of fifty (5)
- 3 Resting place for a Latin song (4)
- 4 The street to the right has a direct connection (8)
- 5 Did not cheat at football, for example (6,3,4)
- 6 A small room in Arabia (4)
- 7 Gives information about gratuities (4)
- 8 The devil is right in the place for the show (13)
- 9 Rode to be able somehow to deter (8)
- 10 But do excellent kings have pretensions? (4)
- 11 Heaps to form (5)
- 12 Develops former cares (7)

Cryptic Clues Down

- 1 Pinnace 14 Horace 19 Editor 18 Noisily 19 Lurid 20 Emulating 21 Tar 22 Delectation
- 2 Orb 3 Pupil 4 Europe 5 Ermined 6 Detractor 7 Freethinker 8 Freetraders 12 Turpitude 15 Climate 17 Typist 19 Light 21 Too
- 3 Ant 22 Alternately
- 4 Pocket money 9 Ear 10 Christian 11 Limps 13 Fir tree 14 Result 16 Better 18 Treacle 19 Side 20 Offensive 21 Legion 19 Spent 21 All
- 5 Rub 10 Perimeter 11 Extol 13 Pinnacle 14 Horace 19 Editor 18 Noisily 19 Lurid 20 Emulating 21 Tar 22 Delectation
- 6 Freethinker 7 Freetraders 12 Turpitude 15 Climate 17 Typist 19 Light 21 Too
- 7 Declaration 8 Encomiums 12 Masterful 15 Licence 17 Legion 19 Spent 21 All



Scribble space

Last week's solutions

1	7	2	3	4	8	9	5	6
3	9	6	7	5	1	4	2	8
8	5	4	9	2	6	7	1	3
9	1	5	6	3	7	8	4	2
6	2	8	5	1	4	3	7	9
7	4	3	8	9	2	5	6	1
2	3	1	4	7	9	6	8	5
5	6	7	1	8	3	2	9	4
4	8	9	2	6	5	1	3	7

9	8	2	1	5	3	7	6	4
5	3	4	6	7	8	9	1	2
1	6	7	2	4	9	3	8	5
4	9	1	3	2	7	8	5	6
8	5	6	9	1	4	2	3	7
7	2	3	8	6	5	1	4	9
3	7	9	4	8	6	5	2	1
2	4	8	5	9	1	6	7	3
6	1	5	7	3	2	4	9	8

1	3	2	5	7	4	9	8	6
6	5	7	1	9	8	4	3	2
4	8	9	3	2	6	1	7	5
9	7	3	2	1	5	6	4	8
8	2	1	4	6	9	3	5	7
5	4	6	8	3	7	2	9	1
3	9	8	6	5	1	7	2	4
7	1	4	9	8	2	5	6	3
2	6	5	7	4	3	8	1	9

Quick Crossword

Across: 1 Comprehends 9 Rub 10 Perimeter 11 Extol 13 Pinnace 14 Horace 19 Editor 18 Noisily 19 Lurid 20 Emulating 21 Tar 22 Delectation

Down: 2 Orb 3 Pupil 4 Europe 5 Ermined 6 Detractor 7 Freethinker 8 Freetraders 12 Turpitude 15 Climate 17 Typist 19 Light 21 Too

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 1 Pocket money 9 Ear 10 Christian 11 Limps 13 Fir tree 14 Result 16 Better 18 Treacle 19 Side 20 Offensive

Down: 2 Oar 3 Kicks 4 Tariff 5 Observe 6 Emigrated 7 Declaration 8 Endeavours 12 Masterful 15 Licence 17 Legion 19 Spent 21 All

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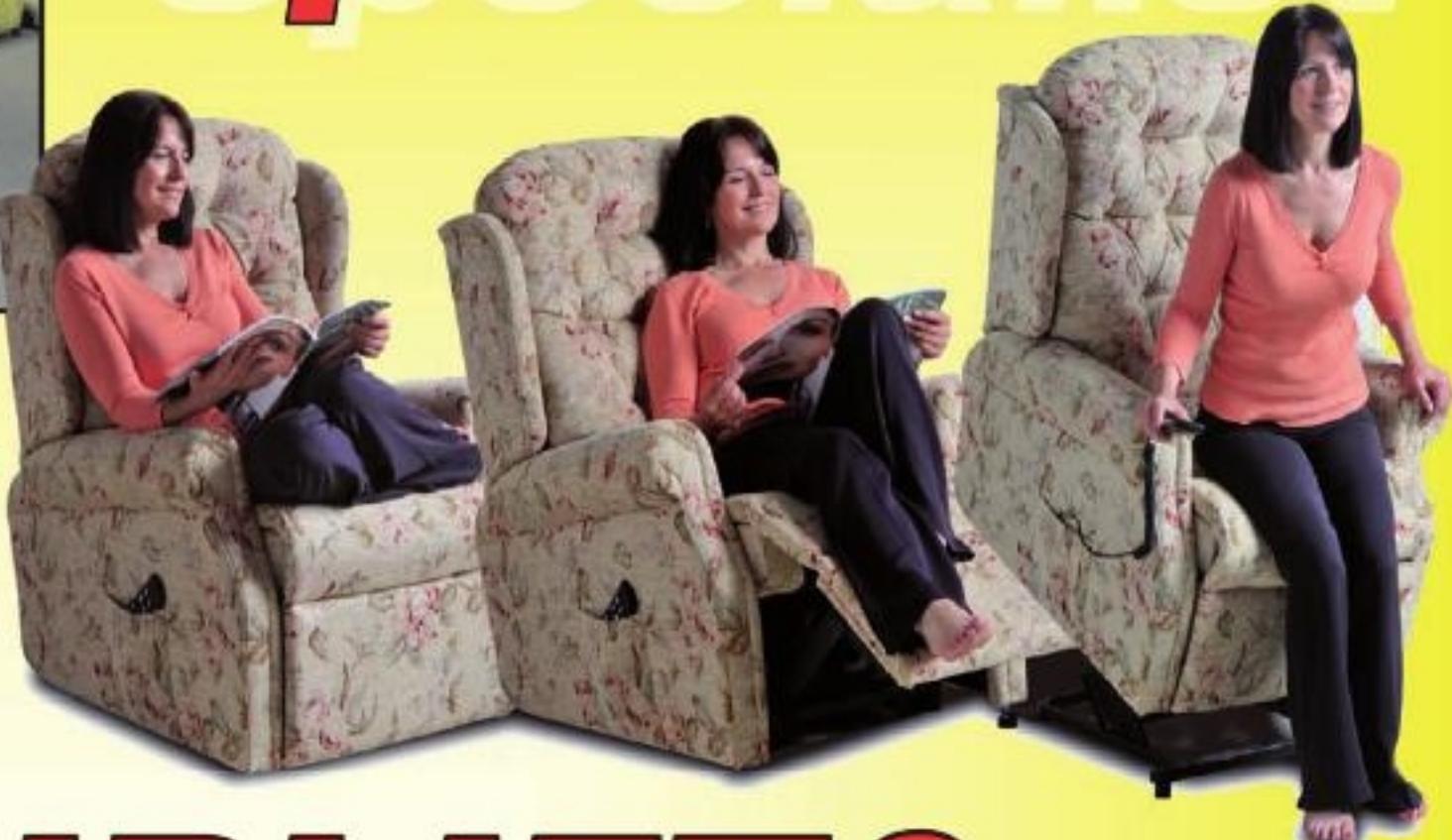
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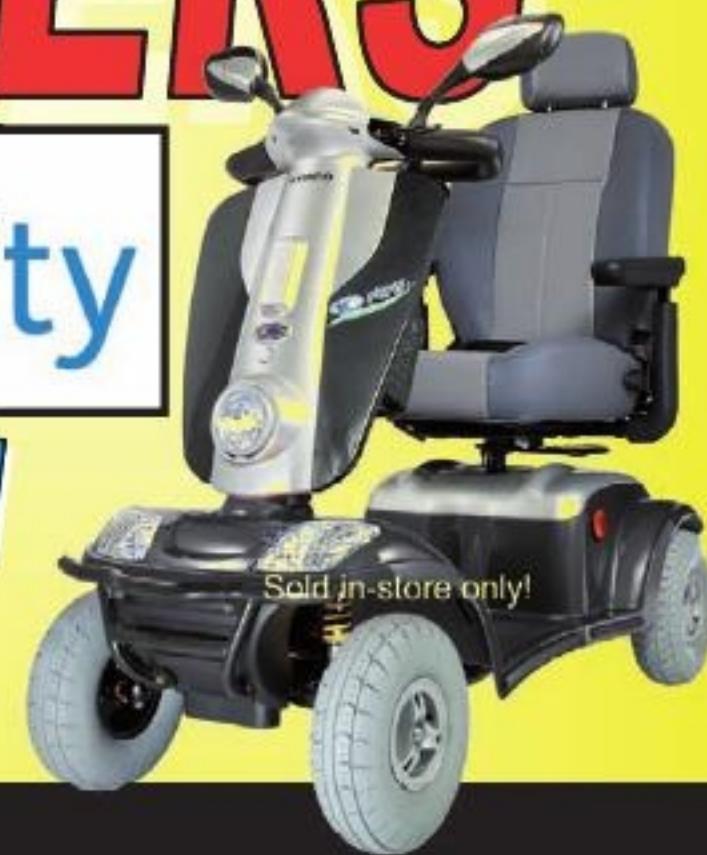
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Mature and more refined MINI is still highly enjoyable to drive Maintaining the fun factor

THIRD time is set to be the charm for BMW as it launches a bigger, better MINI with a greater accent on economy, performance and a premium feel.

It might have grown slightly but there's no mistaking the oversize headlights and signature grille - it can only be a MINI.

That's all that's familiar about BMW's

REVIEW: BMW MINI
By Iain Dooley

third-generation hatchback, though. Underneath the iconic shape lies an all-new platform, engines and transmissions plus an increased focus on delivering an engaging yet refined driving experience.

And while the new car has grown slightly in all dimensions - it's 98mm longer, 44mm wider and 28mm longer between the wheels - the basic proportions and design cues remain.

Inside the cabin the car's trademark oversize central speedometer has been re-purposed to house the infotainment screen and the traditional key has been ditched in favour of a funky backlit engine start toggle switch.

BMW has blessed the car with (standard and cost-option) technology more commonly found in 'grown-up' cars, such as a neat head-up display, parking camera and a self park function, user selectable electronic damper modes, DAB radio, intelligent cruise control

and traffic sign recognition.

The good news extends rewards, as rear seat passengers now have more room - an old Mini bugbear - and the boot is a sensible size.

It's still a bit of squeeze to get in the back but once installed it's noticeably more comfortable, while folding the rear seats further enhances the car's versatility.

Cooper and go-faster Cooper S models make up the range at launch, with the former utilising BMW's new 1.5-litre three-pot petrol motor and the latter a new 2.0-litre petrol unit. All engines are now turbocharged, and significant economy and performance gains have been made across the board.

In popular Cooper guise, the car's new motor puts out a useful 134 horsepower enabling the zero to 62mph sprint in a brisk 7.9 seconds.

Also, power comes in much lower down the rev range, saving you much stirring of the admittedly slick manual gear shift.

And the best news? You can have all this performance while enjoying an official combined economy figure of



• The new MINI

62.8mpg and a tax-dodging 105g/km CO₂ emissions rating.

It's the same cake-and-eat-it scenario out on the road. The MINI Cooper delivers an engaging driving experience, while at the same time maintaining a high level of comfort and refinement across a wide range of road conditions.

The car's electric power steering gives nothing away in terms of feel

and does much to contribute to the previous car's 'go kart-like' sensation that BMW is so keen to maintain, while engine response is right up there with dedicated sports cars.

The three-pot turbo motor even sounds the part, emitting a gruff, purposeful note when you're pressing on. But it's the car's ride and grip levels that impress most. The combination will flatter less experienced drivers

Facts at a glance

Model: Mini Cooper, from
£15,300 on the road

Engine: 1.5-litre petrol unit
developing 134bhp

Transmission: 6-speed manual
transmission as standard, driving
the front wheels

Performance: Maximum speed
130mph; 0-62mph 7.9 seconds

Economy: 62.8mpg

CO₂ Rating: 105g/km

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Flat, the car brand with the lowest average CO₂ emissions in Europe*. Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500L range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 33.6 (8.4) – 62.8 (4.5); Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 76.3 (3.7); Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 70.6 (4.0). CO₂ emissions 149 – 105 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO₂ figures based on standard EU tests for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. *The Fiat 500L and Fiat 500L MPW boot space is based on 5 seat version with rear seats pulled forward. ^aBased on 5+2 seat version. 5 standard seats and two extra seats for persons up to 1.85m. ^bThe 0% APR HP offer is based on 36% customer deposit and 3 Year Term. Fiat Deposit Contribution of £500 is payable in addition to the 36% customer deposit. Deposit Contribution available across the Fiat 500L range and is only available in conjunction with Fiat Hire Purchase Low Cost and Fiat i-Deal Low Cost. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. January to March 2014 offer, valid from the 3rd January 2014. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 4465, Slough SL1 0RW. We work with a number of creditors to provide finance to our customers, including Fiat Financial Services. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. ^cSource: JATO Dynamics. Based on volume weighted average CO₂ emissions (g/km) of the best selling brands in Europe, full year 2012.

Advertiser

Scotlands Ash Garage wins garage of the year 2014

DIDCOT based garage business Scotlands Ash Garage has won "Garage of the Year" at the Car & Accessory Trader (CAT) magazine 2014 awards.

The independent garage emerged victorious following a very competitive voting campaign, which saw the garage take to social media and local press to canvass votes.

The CAT awards are one of the largest of their kind in the automotive industry and Scotlands Ash Garage was up against two other garages throughout the UK.

Scotlands Ash Garage proprietor, Peter Welch, said: "It's incredible. We're a small business but we work hard to raise the profile of good car servicing and repair across Oxfordshire. To have so many people from the local area cast their vote for us is amazing and I'd like to say thanks to all of

them for their support. And, to the Scotlands Ash Team, family, friends and customers, who have been with us on our journey, we thank them enormously."

In addition to Peter, the Scotlands Ash Team comprises of trained mechanics Steve Moxon, Nathan Edwards, Jack Jones, Stuart Florey and administrative support Gillian Hyde.

The CAT awards ceremony took place on 7 February at Twickenham Rugby Stadium, West London. CAT magazine is part of media giant Haymarket Media Group. Car & Accessory Trader is a leading business magazine aimed at the UK automotive aftermarket. Launched in 1979, CAT is widely regarded as the aftermarket's most reliable source of information,

business advice, news and views.



Scotlands Ash Garage, Proprietor,
Peter Welch

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Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza 1.2 12V 60ps Coupe in mpg (litres per 100km): Urban 39.8 (7.1) extra urban 64.2 (4.4) combined 52.3 (5.4). CO2 emissions 125g/km.

Official Government fuel consumption figures for the Citroën DS3 range: Urban cycle, Extra urban, Combined (litres per 100km/mpg) & CO2 emissions (g/km); Highest: Citroën DS3 VTi 120 automatic DStyle 9.3/30.4, 4.9/57.6, 6.5/53.5, 150. Lowest: Citroën DS3 e-HDI 90 Airteam manual DStyle 9.1/30.7, 3.2/68.3, 3.0/78.0, 91.

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Renault range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-78.5 (3.6); Extra Urban 45.6 (8.2)-94.2 (3); Combined 36.7 (7.7)-88.3 (3.2). The range's official CO2 emissions are 178-83g/km.

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Dacia Duster range are: Urban 27.2 (10.4)-49.6 (5.7); Extra Urban 40.3 (7)-61.4 (4.6); Combined 35.3 (8)-66.5 (5). The official CO2 emissions for the range are 185-130g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures.

*Offers subject to availability, all figures correct at time of going to press January 2014. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are only available from Hartwell Oxford/Seat. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Selected models only. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Finance through Seat finance. Savings shown against manufacturer recommended retail price (MRP). Models shown for illustration purposes only. *Prices & offers apply to retail sales of qualifying Citroën models ordered & delivered 01/01/13-31/03/14 & include VAT, delivery to dealer & number plates. Government Registration Fee & 12 month graduated vehicle excise duty, black/metallic/pearlescent/Sport Yellow/Sport Red paint optional at extra cost. Model shown: Citroën DS3 1.4HT 160 6-speed manual. Upfront available at a higher price. Elect 4 Personal Lease rental shown apply to Citroën DS3 VII 82 manual. Usage & require an advance rental of £1,819 followed by 46 monthly rentals & an optional final rental of £2,043. Excess mileage charges may apply if the agreed annual mileage is exceeded. Payment of the optional final rental extends the rental term. This does not transfer title of the vehicle & requires an annual rental equivalent to one month's rental. Finance subject to status. Written quotations available on request from Citroën Financial Services, Quadrant House, Princess Way, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1QA, UK. Over 18s only. A guarantee may be required. Includes: Scheduled servicing, annual service for vehicles on 2 year cycle, wheel needed & brake fluid. Expires at 36 months or 36,000 miles (whichever occurs sooner). Offers, prices & specification correct at time of going to press from participating Dealers. Terms & conditions apply. Please ask us for details. Subject to stock availability. Finance offers apply to UK only. Terms and exclusions apply. **Finance provided by PG Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD1 1JU. For finance, conditions apply. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands) to apply for finance. **£1,500 deposit contribution is available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on a New Renault Captur. Offers cannot be used in conjunction with other schemes or finance offers and are available on the specified new vehicle when ordered by 31st March 2014. Cars shown may have optional metallic paint, available at an additional £420 (or £230 for i.d. paint), plus £300 for painted roof on Captur. *Prices shown is based on a base model. Models shown for illustration purposes only. Subject to terms and conditions.

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208 range: Urban 34.9 - 78.4 (8.1 - 3.6), Extra Urban 62.8 - 88.2 (4.5 - 3.2), Combined 48.7 - 83.0 (5.8 - 3.4) and CO2 135 - 87.

2008 range: Urban 36.7 - 68.9 (7.7-4.1), Extra Urban 58.9 - 78.5 (4.8 - 3.6), Combined 47.9 - 74.3 (5.9 - 3.8) and CO2 135 - 98.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range (excl. Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 18.0 (15.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO2 emissions: 373 - 88g/km.

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13 63 FOCUS 1.0 100PS PETROL ZETEC NAVIGATOR NEW MODEL, 5dr, deep impact blue met/grey, sat nav, B'tooth & USB, e/w & m, 17" alloys, privacy glass, ABS, EP, reverse park sensors, 6 a/b, 2 yrs old & 9 mths manufacturer's warranty, only £20 RFL/year, 3,413 miles



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11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated w/screen, PAS, auto lights/wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH



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11 11 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 115PS ZETEC, 3dr, colorado red/grey, e/w&m, c/l, Blue tooth USB, air con, 5 spd, ABS, ESP, front fogs, HFS, DAD radio/CD, alloys, PAS, 6 airbags, a/c, FSH, one owner from new, very low mileage 27,638 miles



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13 13 FOCUS 1.0T PETROL 100PS 5 DR TITANIUM, 5 spd, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, cruise control, climate control, auto lights & wipers, front fogs, alloys, HFS, one owner from new, low mileage 9,900 miles, 2 years manufacturers warranty	£13,595
09 09 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL TITANIUM AUTO, 5dr, moondust silver/grey, e/w&m, cruise control, auto lights & wipers., c/l, alloys, DAB radio/CD, climate, HFS, 6 airbags, ABS, ESP, 2 owners from new, very low mileage, FSH, 14,055 miles	£7,595
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11 61 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL 125PS ZETEC, 5dr, midnight sky met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, DAB radio & CD, PAS, Blue tooth, alloys, front fogs, heated windscreens, ABS, ESP, 29,000 miles	£10,395
08 08 FOCUS 1.8 PETROL 125PS STYLE, 5dr, panther black/grey, c/l, r/CD, e/w&m, PAS, a/c, front fogs, 6 airbags, ESP, 2 owners from new, service history, 53,446 miles	£5,595
11 60 FOCUS 1.6 PETROL SPORT, 5dr, frozen white/grey titanium, sat nav, Bluetooth, USB, rear park sensors, a/c, alloys, HFS, auto wipers & headlamps, front fogs, e/front windows & mirrors, ABS, 6 airbags, one owner, FSH, 33,500 miles	£8,995
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11 11 KA EDGE 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, midnight black/grey, 5spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, PAS, 2 airbags, a/c, £30 RFL per year, one owner from new, 31,213 miles	£6,295
12 12 KA STUDIO 1.2 PETROL, 3dr, sunrise /grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, 2 airbags, ABS, one local owner from new, FSH, RFL only £30 per year, 14,775 miles.....	£5,995
10 60 KA TITANIUM 1.2, petrol, 3dr, moonlight silver met/grey, 5 spd, PAS, r/CD, climate, e/w&m, c/l, HFS, fr fogs, alloys, 2 a/bags, ABS, 2 owners from new, only £30 RFL/year, 34,827 miles ..	£6,995
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13 13 FIESTA ZETEC S 1.6 TDCI 95PS DIESEL, 3dr, frozen white/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, Ford Sync, City pack, folding mirrors & park sensors, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 5 airbags, ABS, ESP, 1 owner from new, very low mileage 9,000 miles £0 RFL.....	£9,995
11 60 FIESTA 1.25 PETROL ZETEC 82PS, 5dr, ink blue met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, front fogs, 5 airbags, airccon, HFS, alloys, ABS, ESP, one owner from new, FSH, 35,948 miles.....	£8,595

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11 11 C MAX 1.6 PETROL 125PS TITANIUM, micastone met/grey, 5 spd, e/w&m, c/l, r/CD, heated windscreens, PAS, auto lights & wipers, ABS, ESP, convenience pack inc. park assist & fold mirrors, global closing, alloys, very low mileage 5,500 miles, one owner, FSH	£11,995
13 13 B MAX ZETEC 1.0 ECOBOOST 125PS, 5 dr, midnight sky/grey, 5 spd, City pack, e/w&m, Ford Sync, power folding mirrors, rear park sensors, HFS, ABS, multiple airbags, alloys, ex-demonstrator, low mileage 8,800 miles, RFL £30 per year	£12,995
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09 59 SEAT ALTEA 1.9 TDCI S EMOCION MPV, 5 spd diesel, silver met/grey, e/w&m, 5 spd, r/CD, c/l, a/c, front fogs, alloys, 8 airbags, ABS, ESP, Blue tooth, low mileage 42,476 miles, service history, one owner from new	£7,595
07 57 VW POLO 1.2E 60PS, 3dr, blue met/grey, 5 spd, c/l, r/C, PAS, 2 airbags, ABS, low insurance group, RFL 12 months £125, FSH, 57,927 miles	£4,395
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04 54 FOCUS .16I PETROL LX HATCH, tonic blue met/grey, 5 spd, a/c, PAS, e/w, heated front screen, alloys, r/CD, 4 airbags, ABS, 2 owners from new, 76,474 miles	£3,495
03 53 FOCUS GHIA 2.0 PETROL AUTO ESTATE, deep rosso red met/grey, e/w&m, c/l, r & 6 CD player, PAS, climate, HFS, front fogs, alloys, 4 airbags, ABS, traction control, 3 owners from new, service history, low mileage for age 73,281 miles	£3,495

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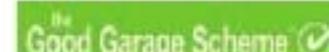
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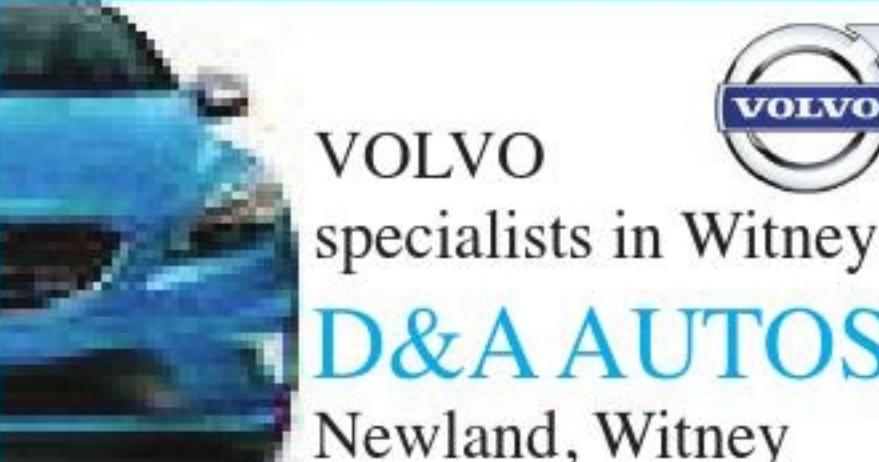
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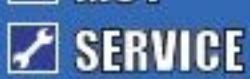
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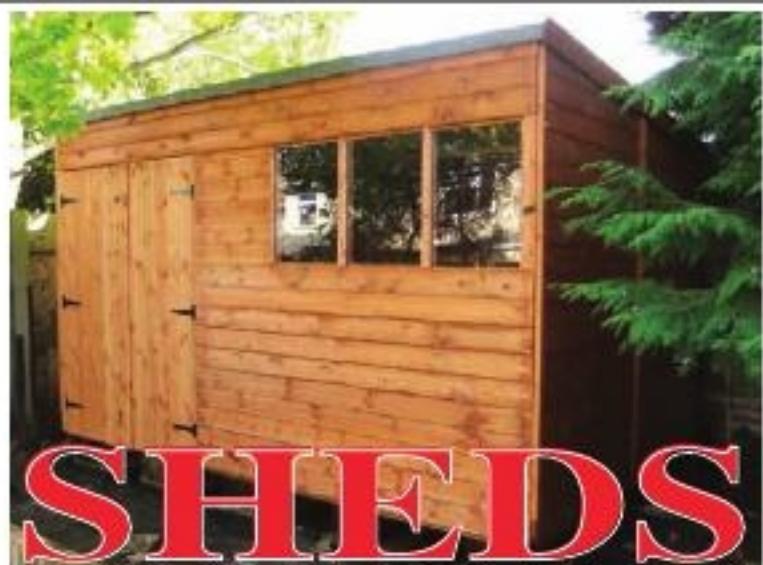
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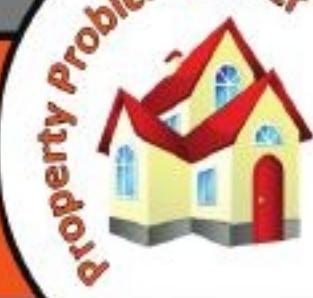
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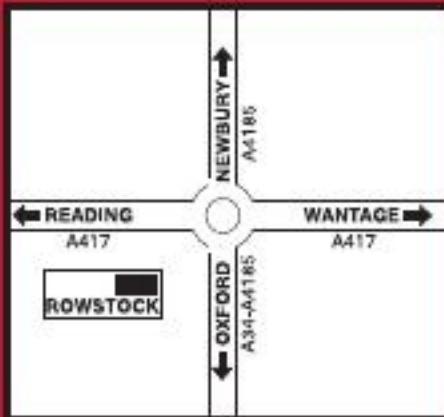
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Lewis praises players after Cheltenham draw

CARETAKER boss Mickey Lewis was delighted with his side's display against Cheltenham on Tuesday night, despite being held to a 1-1 draw at the Kassam.

Ryan Williams' fine solo effort gave the U's a deserved lead with 15 minutes to go.

But a cruel blow saw a ball into the U's box inadvertently flick up off substitute Jamie Cureton's shinpad and over the helpless Ryan Clarke with six minutes to go.

In his pre-match notes, Lewis had called for the right response to the defeat against Burton on Saturday, and was pleased with what the players gave him.

"I'm delighted with the performance to be honest. I thought we carried on from the other night," he said.

"Give Cheltenham a bit of credit - they had a couple of great blocks on the line - we should win the game, but I am delighted with the performance."

"You do need a bit of luck, we've never [mentioned] about having bad luck in [the last few] games, but Cheltenham did have a bit of fortune with their goal. He's lucky, no doubt about it. But even after that, we had chances to win

By James Booker

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it. Frustrated, but really pleased with the way we played."

James Constable started on the left of midfield, and looked a danger coming in off the flank, winning a lot of aerial battles and turning out a typically committed and robust display.

Meanwhile, Josh Ruffels and Johnny Mullins occupied the middle of the park in place of the more familiar pairing of Danny Rose and loanee Nicky Wroe. Goalscorer Williams, who has just penned a new deal with parent club Fulham, was as lively as ever on the right, and crowned his man-of-the-match display by winning the ball 30 yards from goal, keeping his head and shooting low across Robins' keeper Scott Brown.

"He's a real threat going forward - he takes the ball for a run, and he's a clever player as well. At the moment, he's playing his heart out for Oxford United, and we're happy to have him."

The draw leaves the U's winless in five and facing a trip to league leaders Chesterfield on Saturday.



Oxford United 1
Cheltenham Town 1

• Ryan Williams gives Oxford United the lead during Tuesday's 1-1 draw against Cheltenham (Picture by Steve Daniels)

City prove to be too much for battling Banbury

OXFORD City needed extra time to see off plucky Banbury United in the quarter finals of the Oxfordshire senior cup on Tuesday night.

Mike Ford's side ran out eventual 6-2 winners after going into the additional period at 2-2.

Indeed, it could so easily have been a different story, with the visitors taking the lead twice in the match.

Conor Collins put the north Oxfordshire side in front after 22 minutes with a well-taken lob, but Mike Symonds' header 14 minutes later levelled proceedings.

Undeterred, Banbury rallied and took the lead early in the second half through Adeyinka Talabi, but Symonds equalised once more with a quarter of the game to go.

And City proved to be too strong for the visitors as the game headed into extra time.

Goals from Declan Benjamin, Paul Stonehouse and Aky Chrediy followed, before Symonds capped a fine individual display with his hat-trick.



Smith is raring to go

BRADLEY Smith is feeling positive as he prepares to kick-start his second season in MotoGP in a week's time.

The 23-year-old finished 10th in his rookie year and has had an encouraging pre-season with the Monster Yamaha Tech3 team.

Smith was third fastest in the final pre-season test in Qatar and is looking forward to returning to the Losail circuit for the opening round next weekend.

"Overall, I am really pleased with how the winter went for us," he said.

"I am feeling happy with what was achieved here (Qatar) and this means that we are definitely hitting the ground running."

"The next step is just some slight fine tuning. The desert is always a bit unpredictable but we are prepared. We have done a lot of very good laps, and I am really excited for round one."

Sport Bites

Stars are back

OXFORD City Stars return to action this weekend as they welcome Cardiff Devils 2 to Oxpens.

Stars, who are second in the National Ice Hockey League South 2, are three points behind leaders Slough Jets. This weekend's opponents, Cardiff, are seventh in the league table.

Crunch game

A WIN this weekend against Sevenoaks Men's 1s will secure Oxford Hawks' Premier Division 1 future.

Hawks were beaten 3-2 by Milton Keynes Men's 1s last weekend but only a point is needed for Hawks to ensure their safety.

They are currently eighth in the table, a place and six points above safety, with three matches remaining.

Wantage win

JIMMY Deabill's 25th minute header earned Wantage Town a 1-0 win at Wootton Bassett Town on Tuesday night.

The Alfredians are currently four points behind Hellenic Premier Division leaders Ardley United, with two games in hand.

Wantage are in action this evening as they travel to Maidenhead United in the quarters of 'Flying Press' Hellenic Floodlit Cup.

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DERBY DEFEAT FOR ABINGDON

Zoldan's battling U's are beaten by Vale district rivals Wantage

ABINGDON United's hopes of avoiding relegation from the Hellenic Premier Division were dealt another blow after a 3-0 defeat to Wantage Town last Saturday.

Goals from Matt Peddar, Jimmy Deabill and Andy Younie condemned United to their 24th defeat of the season, leaving them five points clear of potential safety.

However, it had taken high-flying Wantage 78 minutes to break the deadlock at the Northcourt, the turning point being the sending off of Wade Rutherford for headbutting Robbie Sadler.

With Andy Zoldan's side down to 10 men, Wantage took full advantage and broke Abingdon's resistance.

However, Wantage were deserving of the victory.

Rich Claydon headed against the bar in the first half before Chris Rackley denied the Wantage striker.

But it was just after the hour mark when the game turned heavily in favour of the Alfredians.

Rutherford's late challenge on Sadler sparked a confrontation, resulting in the former receiving a straight red for headbutting the Wantage full-back.

By Jack Johnson

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With 12 minutes to go, Gary Ackling's side finally broke the deadlock.

Mark James rose highest to head down a corner and the ball was turned in by Peddar for 1-0.

Deabill then doubled Wantage's lead, heading home Sadler's cross, before Younie finished off a flowing move for 3-0.

The defeat leaves United second from bottom in the league table.

However, results continue to go their way with Shrivenham (16th), Newbury (17th) and Holyport (18th) all failing to record a win last Saturday.

Shrivenham were beaten 2-1 by Highmoor Ibis, Newbury lost to Kidlington while Holyport played out a goalless draw with Wootton Bassett Town.

Holyport also played on Tuesday night and were thumped 6-2 by Kidlington.

Zoldan's men are still to play Shrivenham and Holyport, games which could prove crucial in their bid to avoid relegation.

United face Oxford City Nomads this Saturday.



• Wade Rutherford was sent off during Abingdon United's 3-0 defeat at home to Wantage Town (Picture by Chris Janes)

Abingdon United 0
Wantage Town 3

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Telephone 01235 511700 (Head Office).
Printed by Iliffe Print Cambridge, Milton, Cambridge CB24 6PP